

delegates challenged a similar snub. The French civilian delegates appeared to be more preoccupied with the extension of the French frontiers after victory than with securing conditions which alone made victory possible.

Paleologue gives in his entrancing Diary an astonishing account of his first interview with Doumerque.

Doumerque The latter first enquired about the internal preoccupied condition of Russia and on being assured

with French

annexationist

that Russia was walking straight into the abyss and that we must make haste

he promptly took the Ambassador's advice by asking

him to take steps without delay to obtain from the

Emperor a written record of his promise to help France

to secure in the Peace Treaty the left bank of the

Rhine. The French Premier had given definite

instructions to his Delegation on this subject, but

apparently on no other. The Czar was giving an

official reception to all the Inter-Allied delegates. An

interview was arranged to take place at that reception

between him and the heads of the French Delegation.

When the opportunity came in the course of the evening, M. Doumerque seized it with true

French élan.

A jejune sentence from him about the desirability of

simultaneous offensives began the conversation. This

was assented to by the Czar. Then the French delegate plunged into real business by broaching

the topic of the left bank of the Rhine.

Alsace-
Lorraine was to be restored to France and
it must be
the ancient Lorraine of the ninth
century. The rest
of the German territories on the left bank
of the Rhine
were to be severed from Germany and
suitable
arrangements made for their
administration.
M. Doumerque examined each of these
questions in
the greatest detail⁵⁵ and obtained the
Emperor's